

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A composition comprising about  $10^3$  cfu to about  $10^{11}$  cfu per gram dry inert carrier of a bacterial strain that exhibits degradative activity towards a toxin.
2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said bacterial strain has the identifying characteristics of a bacterium designated APM-1, deposited as ATCC Accession No. PTA-4838.
3. The composition of claim 1, wherein said carrier comprises porous, ceramic particles.
4. The composition of claim 3, wherein from about 20% to about 100% of said particles have a pore size of from about 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .
5. The composition of claim 1, further comprising about 5% to about 40% growth medium per gram of carrier on a wt/wt dry basis.
6. A method of reducing the amount of a toxin in an environment, comprising applying an effective amount of the composition of claim 1 to said environment.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein said toxin is toxaphene.
8. The method of claim 6, wherein said toxin is trichloroethylene.
9. The method of claim 6, wherein said toxin is methylene chloride.
10. The method of claim 6, wherein said environment is a marine environment.
11. The method of claim 6, wherein said environment is soil.
12. The method of claim 6, wherein said environment is a toxic waste dump.

13. A method of identifying an inhibitor of a mammalian pathogenic fungus, comprising:

contacting a Gram-positive bacterium designated APM-1, deposited as ATCC Accession No. PTA-4838, or an extract from said bacterium with said fungus; and measuring whether growth of said pathogenic fungus is inhibited.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said fungus is contacted with an aqueous extract from said bacterium.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein said fungus is contacted with an methanolic extract from said bacterium.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein said fungus is a *Microsporum*, *Trichophyton* or *Epidermophyton* species.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein said fungus is a *Cladosporium* or *Trichosporon* species.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein said fungus is a *Candida* or *Aspergillus* species.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein said fungal pathogen is a human fungal pathogen.

20. The method of claim 13, wherein said fungal pathogen is a fungal pathogen of dogs, cats, cattle, pigs, or sheep.